

Message Text

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ACTION PM-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SS-15 MMO-01 L-03 NSC-05 DODE-00

OMB-01 ACDA-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 SP-02 MC-02 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 IGA-02 /056 W

----- 124302

O R 081826Z OCT 76 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4729

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4867

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, HO

SUBJECT: NSSM 243-MAAG REQUIREMENTS STUDY

REF: (A) STATE 249431 (DTG 070404Z OCT 76), (B) TEGUCIGALPA 2446

(C) SAN SALVADOR 4686

1. I REGRET THAT MY REPLY WAS DELAYED BEYOND DEADLINE SPECIFIED
DEPTEL, BUT I WAS AWAY FROM TEGUCIGALPA ALL DAY OCTOBER 7 VISITING
AID PROJECTS, AND DID NOT SEE MESSAGE UNTIL EARLY THIS MORNING.

2. I HAVE REVIEWED THE NUMEROUS COMMUNICATIONS EMBASSY AND MILGP
HAVE SUBMITTED ON THIS SUBJECT, AND I AM IN AGREEMENT WITH THE
MISSION'S VIEWS SUBMITTED BY MY PREDECESSOR IN REF (B). REFTEL
STATED THAT THOUGH THERE COULD BE SOME REDUCTION OF PERSONNEL
WIHOUT IMPAIRING MILGP'S ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS, EIGHT WILL BE
MINIMUM NUMBER REQUIRED AS LONG AS THERE IS A SECURITY ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM. THIS NUMBER IS THE SAME AS THE NUMBER SPECIFIED IN
JCS MANPOWER SURVEY FOR THE PERIOD THROUGH FY 78, AND IT ALSO
COINCIDES WITH THAT CONTAINED IN USCINCSO'S BEGIN QUOTE SURVEY
OF LATIN AMERICAN MILGP STRUCTURE OF MANNING, END QUOTE

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TRANSMITTED TO JCS UNDER COVERING LETTER DATED 23 JANUARY 1976.

THEREFORE THIS MISSION PREFERS OPTION B AS CONTAINED IN PARA 5(B), AND RESERVES ITS POSITION ON POSSIBLE EVENTUAL REDUCTION TO THREE-OFFICER SECURITY ASSISTANCE OFFICE. WE BELIEVE WE CAN CONTINUE ESSENTIAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE OPERATIONS UNDER OPTION B.

3. SINCE CURRENT MILGP STAFF NUMBERS EIGHT U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL, I BELIEVE THE REACTION OF HOST GOVERNMENT IS LIKELY TO BE MINIMAL, AND IN ANY CASE MUCH LESS ADVERSE THAN IF WE WERE TO OPT NOW FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF THREE-MAN OSA.

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS WILLINGNESS OF HOST GOVERNMENT TO PICK UP GREATER PORTION OF FUNDING FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE THROUGH TAFT'S UNDER FMS CONTRACTS. AS LONG AS WE CONTINUE TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR SECURITY ASSISTANCE, GOH WILL BE UNWILLING TO DO SO. IF WE WERE TO DISCONTINUE SUCH FUNDING, WILLINGNESS OF GOH TO ASSUME BURDEN WOULD DEPEND UPON THE RELATIVE PRIORITY GOH ASSIGNED TO THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE IT RECEIVES FROM US, AND THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR DEFENSE SPENDING. WE SHOULD NOT ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT IF WE WERE TO CURTAIL SUCH FUNDING GOH WOULD UNDERTAKE RESPONSIBILITY TO FINANCE CONTINUING U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES GOH MIGHT VERY WELL DECIDE TO TURN TO THIRD COUNTRIES FOR ASSISTANCE, DEPENDING UPON FINANCING OFFERED, IN THE SAME WAY THAT HONDURAS DECIDED TO PURCHASE SUPER MYSTERES BECAUSE OF OUR RELUCTANCE TO SELL THEM F-5'S.

5. I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT DEPARTMENT MEANS WHEN IT REFERS TO BEGIN QUOTE DISTINCT MILITARY GROUPS ASSIGNED TO THE MISSION END QUOTE IN PARA 5(C), REF (A), AND I WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION AS TO PRECISELY WHAT IS MEANT. DOES THIS REFERENCE SUGGEST OPTION B BE MODIFIED, IN THE CASE OF HONDURAS, BY SPLITTING EXISTING MILGP INTO THREE-MAN OSA AND FIVE-MAN MILGP?

6. I SHARE AMBASSADOR LOZANO'S VIEWS, AS EXPRESSED IN THE FINAL PARAGRAPH REF (C), CONCERNING NEED TO CONSIDER THIS SUBJECT IN ITS REGIONAL CONTEXT. I ALSO AGREE THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO ESTABLISH SOME REGULAR MEANS OF CONSULTATION BETWEEN OUR TWO MISSIONS.

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7. DAO AND COMMANDER USMILGP CONCUR THIS MESSAGE.
BARTCH

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Message Attributes

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